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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/435,540	11/08/1999	STEVEN R. DONOVAN	RIC99057	5356

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WORLD COM, INC.
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

PARTON, KEVIN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002 #20

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/435,540

Applicant(s)

DONOVAN, STEVEN R.

Examiner

Kevin Parton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 15-17.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. The preliminary amendments filed 11/30/2000 and 02/22/2002 have been considered.
The priority date of the application is 11/5/1999.

Response to Arguments

2. The applicant argues "In response to the objection to claims 21-30...independent claim 16." (page 3, paragraph 5). This amendment to the original claim overcomes the disclosed references. The affected claims, 16-31, are allowed (see below).
3. Applicant's further arguments filed 09/16/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Please see the following explanation.
4. The applicant further argues "The rejection of claims 1-15...as recited in claim 1" (page 3, paragraph 6 – page 4, paragraph 2). This argument is not persuasive because the primary Schulzrinne reference does teach the provision of information to a router for enabling a Quality of Service policy in session packets arriving at the router. As disclosed by Schulzrinne (page 3) routers may be provided information in order to route packets according to the RSVP model. This is the installation of QoS policy on the router. The Gutman reference is used primarily to show the common practice of loading policy information on a server as claimed. It is an obvious modification of the system to provide call setup information and policy to a server and the motivation is described below and in the original basis of rejection. In summary, the installation of the QoS policy at the router is described in the Schulzrinne reference, the specific idea of installing at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information at a server is shown in the Gutman et al. reference. Since these two references are from the same field of endeavor, they are combined and the motivation is given below. The

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result of this combination is the installation of QoS policy on a router and authentication and other information on a server, as in the claimed invention.

5. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulzrinne et al. (1999) in view of Gutman et al. (6,298,383)

8. Regarding claim 1, Schulzrinne et al. (1999) teach a system for providing Internet Protocol (IP) communications over at least one network with Quality of Service (QoS), comprising the steps of:

- a. Means for initiating a communication session between at least one first end client device and at least one second end client device (page 1; figure 3). Note that IP telephony as an application implies the connection of at least two client

devices. The initiation and call setup is explained briefly in the abstract and the disclosure of the reference.

- b. In response to initiating the communication session, means for providing the information to at least one router of the communication session for enabling a Quality of Service policy in session packets arriving at the router (page 3).

Note that in the reference, the “egress router” would have some resource usage information sent to it to determine the reserved path. Also note that the reference teaches the embedding of this information in the router in response to session initiation (Table 1; page 3). The operations are carried out as a part of the call setup process, after communication initiation. The setup of RSVP routing in the router is part of the disclosed process and this is a Quality of Service policy.

- c. Means for establishing a communication session between the at least one first end client device and the at least one second end client device (page 1; figure 3). Note that the application of IP telephony implies communication between at least 2 client devices; the method of connection is described in the reference. This would necessarily take place in response to the initiation of a communication session

Although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to specifically disclose:

- a. In response to initiating the communication session, means for providing information to at least one server of the communication session, the

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information including at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999), as evidenced by Gutman et al. (6,298,383).

In an analogous art, Gutman et al. (6,298,383) disclose:

- a. In response to the initiation of the communication session, means for providing information to at least one server of the communication session, the information including at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information (column 3, lines 4-11). Note that the determination of the incoming message as wholesale or retail user is authorization and/or authentication information. Note that this authorization takes place in response to session initiation.

Given the teaching of Gutman et al. (6,298,383), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) by employing the passing of parameters to an authorization, authentication, and accounting server. The advantages of doing this include centralization of security and access policy, and access only to privileged system administrators. This separation of function makes the system more secure and more reliable.

9. Regarding claim 2, Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) teach all the limitations as applied to claim 1. Schulzrinne further teaches means wherein the Quality of

Service policy is in accordance with a Differentiated Services model (page 1). Note that differentiated services models are used in the call setup of the reference.

10. Regarding claim 6, although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) (as applied to claim 1) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the at least one server is a policy server, the step of providing information to the at least one server of the communication session, further comprises the steps of:

- i. Sending a message requesting the at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information to at least one policy server, and
- ii. Sending a message responding to the message in (a) with at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information; wherein the at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information is according to the at least one QoS policy.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999), as evidenced by Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) (as applied to claim 1 and as further stated below).

In an analogous art, Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) discloses means wherein the at least one server is a policy server, the step of providing information to the at least one server of the communication session, further comprises the steps of:

- a. Sending a message requesting the at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information to at least one

policy server (column 3, lines 4-11). Note that in the reference, the passing of the incoming packets constitutes the sending of a message to the policy or AAA server.

- b. Sending a message responding to the message in (a) with at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information (column 3, lines 9-11); wherein the at least one of resource usage, policy, authorization, authentication, and accounting information is according to the at least one QoS policy.

Given the teaching of Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) by sending messages to and from the policy server. The benefit of passing QoS parameters to and from this policy server is the increased oversight and the ability to alter QoS policy and decisions at a single point.

11. Regarding claim 7, although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) (as applied to claim 1) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed on a plurality of policy servers, one of the plurality of policy server being a local policy server for the first end client device, and one of the plurality of policy servers being a local policy server for the second end client device.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999), as evidenced by Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) (as applied to claim 6 and as further stated below).

In an analogous art, Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) discloses means wherein steps (a) and (b) of claim 6 are performed on a plurality of policy servers (column 1 line 66-column 3, line 4), one of the plurality of policy server being a local policy server for the first end client device, and one of the plurality of policy servers being a local policy server for the second end client device. Note that the reference teaches the distribution of AAA servers to different domains. This is analogous to the claimed invention.

Given the teaching of Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) by employing multiple servers for clients in different domains. This allows for increased flexibility in policy and on the system in general. Users in each domain would be able to establish and implement policy specific to their function instead of adhering to the policy of the administrative center.

12. Regarding claim 9, Schulzrinne et al. (1999) teach means wherein the step of providing information to at least one router of the communication session, further comprises the steps of:

- a. Sending a message installing policy to at least one router (page 3). Note that RSVP message is included in communication to egress router.
- b. Sending a message (from the router) (page 4). Note that in the reference this is not a message confirming installation.

Although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) (as applied to claim 1) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose:

- a. Sending a message requesting a local policy decision; and
- b. Sending a message (from the router) confirming installation.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999), as evidenced by Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) (as applied to claim 1 above and further discussed below).

In an analogous art, Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) discloses:

- a. Sending a message requesting a local policy decision (page 3-4); and

Given the teaching of Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) by having routers request local policy decisions. This allows the routers to be updated with the most current usage statistic, or authentication information.

Further, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) by having a message sent from the router to confirm installation of the local policy decision. This is necessary and advantageous because the server is able to accurately manage all routers on which the policy has been installed, not just those that the policy was sent to. Any errors in communication or installation can be remedied with a re-submission of the policy to the router.

13. Regarding claim 10, Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) teach all the limitations as applied to claim 9. Schulzrinne further teaches means wherein the at least one router performs according to a Differentiated Services model (page 1).

14. Regarding claim 11, Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) teach all the limitations as applied to claim 9. Schulzrinne et al. (1999) further disclose means wherein steps (a)-(c) (from claim 9) are performed on a plurality of routers, one of the plurality of routers being a local router for the first end client device, and one of the plurality of routers

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being a local router for the second end client device (page 3). Note that Schulzrinne et al. (1999) do not limit the number of involved routers and the location in relation to the clients.

15. Regarding claim 13, although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) (as applied to claim 7) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the network includes at least one clearinghouse server, the clearinghouse server providing resource usage, policy, authentication, authorization, and accounting information to each of the plurality of policy servers, the method further comprising the steps of:

- a. Means for sending a message requesting at least one of resource usage, policy, authentication, authorization, and accounting information to the at least one clearinghouse server; and
- b. Means for sending a message including at least one of resource usage, policy, authentication, authorization, and accounting information to the at least one policy server.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al, as evidenced by Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383).

In an analogous art, Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) discloses means wherein the network includes at least one clearinghouse server (referred to as GRS or proxy server in reference), the clearinghouse server providing resource usage, policy, authentication, authorization, and accounting information to each of the plurality of policy servers (column 2, lines 14-23), the method further comprising the steps of:

- a. Means for sending a message including at least one of resource usage, policy, authentication, authorization, and accounting information to the at least one policy server (column 2, lines 14-23). Note that in the reference, the GRS server sends authorization, authentication, and accounting (AAA) information to local AAA databases in separate domains. This is similar information to that in the claimed clearinghouse server.

Given the teaching of Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) by employing a clearinghouse server to send AAA information to the policy servers local to each client or system. This is advantageous because it allow for multiple levels of control. The central administrator can make policy decisions for all domain servers, while each domain server can be configured for that specific domain.

Also, it would further be obvious that the policy servers could send a message requesting at least one of resource usage, policy, authentication, authorization, and accounting information to the at least one clearinghouse server. Doing this is advantageous because it removes the need for constant update by the clearinghouse server and free up resources for other communication.

16. Regarding claim 14, although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383) (as applied to claim 13) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein steps (a) and (b) use an open Settlement Policy (OSP).

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (6,298,383)

A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne and Gutman by employing the use of an Open Settlement Policy for these steps. Doing this is advantageous because OSP was specifically designed for use in Internet telephony and communications and is optimized for this application.

17. Regarding claim 15, although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) (as applied to claim 1) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the network uses an authorization token to indicate that a session is authorized.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999)

A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al by utilizing an authorization token. The use of a token is advantageous because it allows for control of each entity utilizing the service.

Authorized sessions can be monitored and accurately logged for system administrators and security applications. Note that any of a number of authorization methods would have been appropriate.

18. Claims 3, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Eriksson et al.

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19. Regarding claim 3, although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (as applied to claim 1) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the step of initiating a communication session further comprises the steps of:

- a. Sending an initiation message from the at least one first end client device to the at least one second end client device;
- b. Sending a message indicating receipt of the initiation message by the at least one second end client device;
- c. Sending a message indicating the at least one second end client device is responding to the initiation message; and
- d. sending a message indicating a receipt of the message in (c) by the at least one first end client device and signaling the start of the communication session.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383), as evidenced by Eriksson et al. (1999)

In an analogous art, Eriksson et al. (1999) disclose means wherein the step of initiating a communication session further comprises the steps of:

- a. Sending an initiation message from the at least one first end client device to the at least one second end client device (page 15);
- b. Sending a message indicating receipt of the initiation message by the at least one second end client device (page 15);

- c. Sending a message indicating the at least one second end client device is responding to the initiation message (page 15); and
- d. sending a message indicating a receipt of the message in (c) by the at least one first end client device and signaling the start of the communication session (page 15).

Given the teaching of Eriksson et al. (1999), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) by this set of call initiation steps. These steps are intrinsic to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) that is specifically geared and optimized for Internet Telephony and high priority communications over the Internet. It is therefore a clear choice for this application.

20. Regarding claim 4, although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (as applied to claim 3) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the steps (a)-(d) use a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383), as evidenced by Eriksson et al. (1999).

In an analogous art, Eriksson et al. (1999) disclose means the steps (a)-(d) use a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) (page 14-15).

Given the teaching of Eriksson et al. (1999), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al.

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and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) by employing SIP. This is a session initiation standard that can be adhered to by any of a number of systems. Using this is advantageous here because Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) is specifically geared and optimized for Internet Telephony and high priority communications over the Internet. It is therefore a clear choice for this application. Standardization also allows for the rapid insertion of new client devices. Note that any serviceable session initiation protocol could be applied.

21. Regarding claim 5, Schulzrinne et al. (1999), Gutman et al. (6,298,383), and Eriksson et al. (1999) teach all the limitations as applied to claim 3. Schulzrinne further teaches means wherein the network includes at least one server for receiving and forwarding initiation messages (page 12). Note that in the reference, the INVITE message is the initiation message that is forwarded.

22. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Boyle et al. (1999).

Although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (as applied to claim 6) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the steps (a) and (b) (of claim 6) use a Common Open Policy Service (COPS).

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383), as evidenced by Boyle et al. (1999).

In an analogous art, Boyle et al disclose means wherein the steps like (a) and (b) (of claim 6) use a Common Open Policy Service (COPS) (page 3). Note that in the reference, the requests of the PEP conform to the steps a) and b) of claim 6.

Given the teaching of Boyle et al. (1999), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) by employing COPS. Using this is advantageous here because COPS is specifically geared and optimized for Internet Telephony and high priority communications over the Internet. Any standard for trading of parameters would be beneficial in the claimed system due to the fact that it gives a known interface for new clients.

23. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Boyle et al. (1999).

Although the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) (as applied to claim 9) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein steps (a)-(c) (of claim 9) use a Common Open Policy Service (COPS).

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383), as evidenced by Boyle et al. (1999).

In an analogous art, Boyle et al disclose means wherein the steps like (a)-(c) (of claim 9) use a Common Open Policy Service (COPS) (page 3). Note that in the reference, the requests of the PEP conform to the steps (a)-(c) of claim 9.

Given the teaching of Boyle et al. (1999), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Schulzrinne et al. (1999) and Gutman et al. (6,298,383) by employing COPS. Any standard for trading of parameters would be beneficial in the claimed system due to the fact that it gives a known interface for new clients. Using this is advantageous here because COPS is specifically geared and optimized for Internet Telephony and high priority communications over the Internet.

Allowable Subject Matter

24. Claims 16-31 are allowed.

Conclusion

25. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Parton whose telephone number is (703)306-0543. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

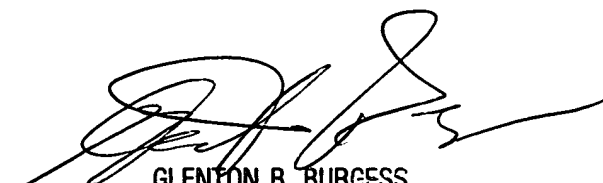
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (703)305-4792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)746-9242 for regular communications and (703)746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Kevin Parton
Examiner
Art Unit 2153

ksp
December 1, 2002



GLENTON B. BURGESS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100